

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 10-11 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 10. Of the pending claims, claim 10 is the only independent claim.

The Specification

In the Office Action mailed July 13, 2005, the Examiner objected to the Amendment mailed February 10, 2005 for introducing new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The Examiner posited that the added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: the amended text in the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5, "the information presented by the check writer".

In response, the Applicant has amended the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 to replace "the information presented by the check writer" with the word "it" as set forth in the specification as originally filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's prior art admission regarding identification of excluded persons at pages 1-3 of the Specification ("the Specification") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,104 issued to Deaton et al. ("Deaton"). The Applicant believes that the claimed invention is patentable over the Specification in view of Deaton and has amended independent claim 10 to more clearly define thereover.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claim 10, is directed to a method for cashing a check presented by an individual at a gambling establishment. The method includes providing a host computer containing an exclusion list database. The exclusion list database stores a list of individuals to be excluded from the gambling establishment and checking account magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) numbers respectively associated with the individuals of the list of individuals.

The method further includes receiving at a POS device of the gambling establishment a check presented by an individual for cashing. Checking account MICR information of the check presented by the individual is then scanned at the POS device. A checking account MICR number associated with the individual presenting the check is then identified based on the scanned checking account MICR information of the presented check. The identified checking account MICR number associated with the individual presenting the check is then transmitted from the POS device to the host computer.

The identified checking account MICR number associated with the individual presenting the check is then compared with the checking account MICR numbers stored in the exclusion list database to determine whether the individual presenting the check is an individual to be excluded from the gambling establishment. The individual presenting the check is determined to be an individual to be excluded from the gambling establishment if the identified checking account MICR number associated with the individual presenting the check matches a checking account MICR number stored in the exclusion list database.

The presented check is prevented from being cashed at the POS device if it is determined that the individual presenting the check is an individual to be excluded from the gambling establishment. The presented check is cashed at the POS device if it is determined that the individual presenting the check is not an individual to be excluded from the gambling establishment.

2. The Claimed Invention Compared to the Specification and Deaton

The claimed invention, as set forth in amended independent claim 10, generally differs from any combination of the Specification and Deaton in that in the claimed invention checking account MICR numbers are incorporated in a gambler exclusion list; the checking account MICR number of a check being presented for cashing by a gambler is identified by scanning the checking account MICR information of the presented check; and the identified checking account MICR number of the presented check is compared with the checking account MICR numbers contained in the gambler exclusion list to determine whether the gambler is to be excluded from the gambling establishment. Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Specification and Deaton.

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 10-11, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a conference would resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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